

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-06 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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E.O. 11652: N.A.
TAGS: OEXC, SP; PEPR, SP, US
SUBJECT: SOCIALIST (PSOE) LEADERS MUGICA AND SOLANA MEET
PRESS BEFORE LEAVING FOR US ON LEADER GRANT TRIP

REF: MADRID 2668 AND PREVIOUS

1. MUGICA AND SOLANA MET BRIEFLY WITH THE PRESS ON
MARCH 10, PRIOR TO THEIR MARCH 11 DEPARTURE FOR
WASHINGTON. WE SUMMARIZE BELOW, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE
WHO WILL BE MEETING WITH THEM, THOSE STATEMENTS WHICH
PERTAINED TO THEIR IMPENDING TRIP:

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP, MUGICA AND SOLANA REPORTEDLY
STATED, IS "TO EXPLAIN THE PSOE'S DEFENSE POLICY, LEARN
MORE ABOUT US DEFENSE POLICY, AND BE BRIEFED ON THE
STATE OF THE COOPERATIVE DEFENSE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES." THEY INDICATED PARTICULAR INTEREST
IN RECEIVING AN UPDATE ON THE PACE OF MATERIAL DELIVERIES
UNDER THE TREATY AND ON THEIR PRICE, SUGGESTING THAT
THEIR INTEREST ALSO REFLECTS THE INTEREST OF FIRST VICE
PRESIDENT (AND DEFENSE MINISTER) GUTIERREZ MELLADO, WITH
WHOM THEY MET PRIOR TO LEAVING.

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3. BOTH LEADERS REITERATED THEIR PARTY'S OPPOSITION
TO NATO MEMBERSHIP FOR SPAIN: "SPAIN WOULD PLAY AN
IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE RELAXATION OF WORLD TENSION IF IT
DID NOT ENTER NATO." THEY CRITICIZED THE SUAREZ GOVT
FOR "TAKING STEPS TOWARD NATO," AND STRESSED THAT IN
THEIR VIEW THE ALLIANCE WAS NOT "THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE

FOR THOSE WHO DESIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFENSE OF THE WEST AND ITS VALUES." NEUTRALITY "IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR SPAIN, SINCE SPAIN IS PART OF EUROPE." BUT THERE ARE DIFFERENT WAYS OF DEFENDING THE WEST, THEY ADDED, AND THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN NATO OR ON THE BASIS OF FRENCH, SWEDISH OR SWISS MODELS.

4. THEY ALSO APPARENTLY TOLD A SPANISH WIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON, UPON THEIR ARRIVAL THERE, THAT THEY HOPED TO SEE SECRETARY BROWN AMONG OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. STABLER

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